

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0907

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BILL NO.: **SB 907**

TITLE: Public Safety - Crime Plan and Law Enforcement Councils
 (Maryland State Crime Plan)

SPONSOR: Senator Smith

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 20, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 907 – Public Safety - Crime Plan and Law Enforcement Councils (Maryland State Crime Plan). This bill establishes the Law Enforcement Coordinating Council and requires the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention to submit a monthly report detailing how State assets are being deployed to fight crime.

Baltimore County supports efforts to enhance government transparency as well as efforts to enhance the coordination of regional law enforcement strategies. Crime is not restricted to a specific set of borders, and addressing crime requires public safety initiatives that are collaborate and comprehensive. By establishing a council that coordinates crime fighting efforts statewide, the State would join Baltimore County and others in inter-jurisdictional crime fighting efforts. This legislation is also noticeable for its comprehensive reporting requirements. If enacted, it would allow Maryland residents more access to the State’s long-term crime prevention efforts and would offer insight into how particular communities are affected.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 907. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.

GBC_FAV_SB907

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Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 907 -- PUBLIC SAFETY - CRIME PLAN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCILS
(MARYLAND STATE CRIME PLAN)**

February 20, 2020

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

Senate Bill 907 establishes the Law Enforcement Coordinating Council. The purpose of the Council is to prevent and reduce crime by coordinating and focusing State resources and ensuring interagency communications and intelligence-sharing. The bill also establishes a Regional Law Enforcement Council for each of the regions established by the Law Enforcement Coordinating Council.

The level of violence in Baltimore City is unacceptable and substantive changes are required to improve public safety and ensure economic vitality and competitiveness. For these reasons, improving public safety has been identified by the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) as the most important issue facing Baltimore City and one that needs to be urgently addressed.

The GBC has recommended a two-pronged approach to reduce violent crime. The first prong addresses crime control through programs in areas of improved policing, better technology, and other enhanced public safety initiatives including better coordination among law enforcement agencies. The second prong - crime prevention - must be instituted simultaneously with crime control efforts. It is critically important to address the root societal causes of crime with programs that address poverty, lack of employment, need for job training programs, and an increase in after-school programs. The GBC equally backs these types of initiatives with the same weight afforded crime control strategies.

Senate Bill 907 requires increased coordination of law enforcement agencies, which many advocates, including the GBC, identify as an important step to reduce violent crime. This bill specifically provides support services for communities with the greatest concentrations of crime and establishes law enforcement regions that prioritize where resources are most needed. The bill acknowledges that specific strategies are necessary to share intelligence between law enforcement agencies, develop patrol agreements across jurisdictions, and provide mutual aid to law enforcement agencies. This increased coordination, required by statute, will better ensure coordination becomes part of Maryland's overall public safety strategy.

Senate Bill 907 is consistent with a key priority in the GBC's 2020 *Legislative Priorities*, which provides that policymakers should strive to "improve public safety through enhanced coordination among criminal justice agencies and implementation of comprehensive violence reduction strategies."

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 907.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 65-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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StateCrimePlan_INFO_SB907

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Position: INFO



GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Community Initiatives · Service & Volunteerism · Performance Improvement
Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services · Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs
Banneker-Douglass Museum · Volunteer Maryland · Deaf & Hard of Hearing

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, Members of the Committee
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 20, 2020

Senate Bill 907 Public Safety - Crime Plan and Law Enforcement Councils (Maryland State Crime Plan)

Position: Informational

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 907 - Public Safety - Crime Plan and Law Enforcement Councils (Maryland State Crime Plan) would create a law enforcement coordinating council within the State Police, require a state crime plan that calls for the establishment of regional councils for the purpose of regional cooperation, and require monthly reporting on how state resources are used to prevent crime.

The Administration believes strongly that information sharing across jurisdictional lines is a critical aspect of reducing violent crime. In fact, this principle is the main theory behind the Administration's Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) initiative. Launched in December 2017, the MCIN is a criminal justice strategy, coordinated at the local, state, and federal level, targeting violent criminal networks as well as drug, firearms, and human trafficking. MCIN is particularly focused on those criminal networks that are impacting multiple jurisdictions, and accomplishes this by sharing information across jurisdictional lines.

MCIN's goals are focused on identifying, disrupting, and dismantling criminal networks through collaboration and comprehensive data sharing. MCIN aligns state resources to provide for a streamlined and coordinated operational plan which currently includes the following 13 coalitions: Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Carroll County, Cecil County, Cumberland, Dorchester County, Frederick, Hagerstown, Hyattsville, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Salisbury.

To date, the MCIN coalition site in Baltimore has resulted in the dismantlement or disruption of 28 criminal organizations, 10 drug trafficking organizations, and 2 gangs as well as the seizure of 54 firearms and more than \$500,000.

Additionally, we wanted to bring to the attention of the Committee two existing bodies -- the Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks, established by executive order in 2017, as well as the State Law Enforcement Coordinating Council within the Maryland State Police.

While the Administration certainly appreciates the acknowledgment that the crime levels in our State's largest city are unacceptable, none of these efforts will be successful if we can't keep violent offenders off the streets and illegal guns out of our communities. We urge you to pass the Administration's legislation to increase accountability for violent offenders, Senate Bill 273 Crimes - Firearms - Penalties and Procedures (Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2020); SB 271 Crimes - Victim and Witness Intimidation - Penalties and Procedures; and Senate Bill 272 State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy - Annual Report - Crimes of Violence (The Judicial Transparency Act of 2020).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

CC: Senator Antonio Hayes

For all inquiries, please contact
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